primarily responsible for development and maintenance of roads declared as national Highways. World Bank is giving assistance of US$ 306 million for improvement of National Highways in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal. No improvement work in Assam has been undertaken with World Bank assistance. The works are expected to be completed by June, 2001.

Amount spent on National Highways in Gujarat

2314. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of National Highways in Gujarat; and

(b) the amount spent on them during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There are nine number of National Highways and one National Expressway which is under construction in the Gujarat State.

(b) The details are as under:

Year	Expenditure incurred on	
	Development of NHs (Rs. in crores)	Maintenance of NHs.
1995-96	54.58	17.45
1996-97	37.38	27.13
1997-98	43.22	37.57

Missing of Sailing Vessel "Rajhans"

2315. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI RAJUBHAI PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mechanised sailing vessel "Rajhans" reported missing alongwith 18 Indian crew members has since been traced; and

(b) if so, when and in what condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The ill fated vessel m.v. Rajhans was found floating upside down near Kuria Muria island about 1050 miles from Indian Coast line. All the crew members were missing and only three bodies were found near the wreck on 22.12.98. The exact reasons for the casualty are not known due to the absence of survivors.

A fact finding inquiry has been initiated by the Directorate General of Shipping.

Conversion of Panchapalli-Manijanga as National Highway

2316. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to convert the PANCHAPALLI-MANIJANGA ROAD in Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa into a National Highway;

(b) if not, the details of the amount spent on repairing the PANCHAPALLI-IBRISINGH portion of the road in the last three years;

(c) whether bills are passed every year for its repair but the same is pocketed by the concerned officials and their pet contractors to the agony of the nearby villagers; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?